Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus for purification of an acrylic acid family, which is an apparatus for distillation purification of the acrylic acid family encompassing acrylic acid and its esters and comprises:~~

~~a distillation column to which a liquid containing the acrylic acid family is supplied, and from the column top of which a vapor is retrieved, and from the column bottom of which a liquid is retrieved, wherein an outer diameter of the distillation column is in a range of 2 to 6 m, a height of the distillation column is in a range of 2 to 40 m, and a capacity of the distillation column is in a range of 0.5 to 100 m^3;~~

~~a condenser which is connected to the column top side of the distillation column, and to which the vapor having been retrieved from the distillation column is supplied, and which condenses the supplied vapor and then refluxes a portion of the resultant condensate to the distillation column, and from which the residual condensate is retrieved; and~~

~~a reboiler which is connected to the column bottom side of the distillation column, and to which the liquid in the distillation column is supplied, and which heat-boils the supplied liquid and then returns it to the distillation column;~~

~~wherein the reboiler is set in a number of at least two in parallel to the distillation column in order to prevent channeling of the liquid or vapor in the distillation column, thus preventing formation and adhesion of polymer~~

~~and clogging caused therefrom in the distillation column and the reboilers~~

A process for distillation purification of an acrylic acid family encompassing acrylic acid and its esters with an apparatus comprising a distillation column, at least two reboilers, and a condenser, with said at least two reboilers being connected to the column bottom side of the distillation column, with the condenser being connected to the column top side of the distillation column, with the process comprising the steps of:

supplying a liquid containing said acrylic acid family to the distillation column,

retrieving a vapor from a column top of said distillation column,

retrieving a liquid from a column bottom of said distillation column,

selecting an outer diameter of the distillation column to be in a range of 2 to 6 m, selecting a height of the distillation column to be in a range of 2 to 40 m, and selecting a capacity of the distillation column to be in a range of 0.5 to 100 m^3,

supplying the vapor that has been retrieved from the distillation column to the condenser,

condensing with the condenser the vapor that has been supplied to the condenser and then refluxing a portion of resultant condensate to the distillation column,

retrieving residual condensate from the condenser,

supplying liquid in the distillation column to said at least two reboilers,

heat-boiling with said at least two reboilers the liquid that has been supplied to said at least two reboilers and returning said liquid to the distillation column, and

setting said at least two reboilers in parallel to the distillation column in order to prevent channeling of the liquid or vapor in the distillation column, thus preventing formation and adhesion of polymer and clogging in the distillation column and in said at least two reboilers.

2. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, ~~wherein the condenser is disposed in a number of at least two in parallel to the distillation column~~ and further comprising the step of disposing at least two condensers in parallel to the distillation column.

3. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of causing equal pressure drops ~~wherein at least two reboilers are connected to the column bottom of the distillation column in such a way that pressure drops caused~~ when the liquid passes from the column bottom to ~~the~~ said at least two reboilers ~~are equal~~ in order to avoid a problem of liquid, being retrieved from the distillation column, having a bias toward a specific reboiler.

4. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of providing ~~wherein the~~ liquid-retrieving pipes, through which ~~the~~ said at least two reboilers and the distillation column are connected to each other, ~~are~~ to be equal or symmetrical with respect to the distillation column as a center.

5. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of causing equal pressure drops ~~wherein at least two reboilers are connected to the distillation column in such a way that pressure drops caused~~ when the liquid passes from ~~the~~ said at least two reboilers to the distillation column ~~are equal~~ in order to well disperse gas into the distillation column.

6. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of equipping vapor-returning pipes ~~are equipped~~ separately to individual reboilers.

7. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A process for purification of an acrylic acid family according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of disposing positions of connections of vapor-returning pipes from ~~the~~ said at least two reboilers to the distillation column ~~are disposed~~ symmetrically as to the distillation column.

8. (canceled).